

MEDIA OUTREACH[®]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

March 31, 1999

Magalie Roman Salas,
Office of the Secretary

TW-A306, Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 99-25:

Dear Secretary:

As business owners who conduct a news distribution operation in the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, we wish to comment on the docket currently open regarding low power FM broadcasting.

We feel that there is a void created by the Telecommunications act of 1996, which led to consolidations of radio stations and less variety of programming.

For this reason, we wholeheartedly support the creation of three new classes of broadcast licenses, providing for various power levels of operation; 1000 watts, 100 watts, and 1-10 watts.

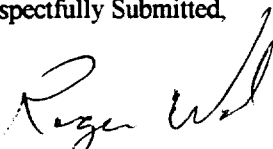
We feel that the stations are needed to fill a local niche left vacant when stations were consolidated and regionalized. Here in Portsmouth, virtually all-local programming disappeared, leaving citizens without live radio news sources.

Speaking to the issue of commercial versus non-commercial licensing, we feel that allowing commercial operation would improve the chances for local neighborhood businesses to gain exposure for their products and services through advertising. That is something that has become unaffordable thanks to consolidation. Commercialization of low power stations would also help finance their continued operation, and enhance their ability to become competitive in the media marketplace.


We believe that such low power operation would also add to the diversity of news and points of view that are now lost because of the homogenization of programming. In New Hampshire, for example, one news broadcaster can be serving many different transmitters with a limited scope of information.

We also feel that our own locality would be well served by such a low power service.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roger Wood



Lee-Anne Leverone

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